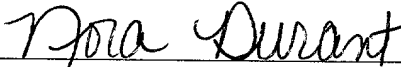


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Nora Durant

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Siu-Yin Wong, et al.

Serial No.: Not yet assigned
Continuation of: 08/909,488

Filing Date: Herewith

For: IMMUNODIAGNOSTIC DEVICE HAVING
A DESICCANT INCORPORATED
THEREIN

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 1 of the specification, under the title, please amend by inserting the following:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/909,488, filed August 12, 1997, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 5,763,262, filed April 3, 1992, which is a file wrapper continuation of U.S. Application No. 07/528,050, filed June 25, 1990 (abandoned),

which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 06/909,020, filed September 18, 1986
(abandoned).

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-25.

Please add the following new claim:

26. (New) In an immunoassay device having a housing with at least one opening therethrough for introduction of a liquid sample into the housing and at least one immunological reagent in dried form in said housing, the improvement comprising:

a desiccant material in said housing, wherein said desiccant is capable of retarding deterioration of said reagent.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. 273102008104. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 11, 2002

By: Karen Babyak Dow
Karen B. Dow
Registration No. 29,684

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification below the title:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/909,488, filed August 12, 1997, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 5,763,262, filed April 3, 1992, which was a file wrapper continuation of U.S. Application No. 07/528,050, filed June 25, 1990 (abandoned), which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 06/909,020, filed September 18, 1986.

In the claims:

Please delete claims 1-25.

Please add the following new claim.

26. (New) In an immunoassay device having a housing with at least one opening therethrough for introduction of a liquid sample into the housing and at least one immunological reagent in dried form in said housing, the improvement comprising:

a desiccant material in said housing, wherein said desiccant is capable of retarding deterioration of said reagent.